

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated August 15, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 15, 2006.

In the specification, the abstract and paragraph [0007] have been amended to correct matters of form.

After submission of this response, claims 1-29 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-3, 6-19, and 22-28 are rejected, and claims 4, 5, 20-21, and 29 are objected to. Claims 1, 7, and 23 are amended to clarify the invention. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Interview Summary

On October 13, 2006, a telephonic interview was held between Randol Read and Examiner Jennifer Hawkins Gay. Applicants discussed the distinctions between the reference and the claimed invention. Proposed amendments to the claims to clarify the invention were also discussed.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract includes the implied phrase "are provided." In response, Applicants have amended the abstract to delete said phrase, thereby obviating the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: in paragraph [0007] of the specification the following application serial numbers should be replaced with their corresponding patent numbers; Serial No. 09/964,034 is now US Patent No. 6,877,553 and Serial No. 09/964,160 is now US Patent No. 6,932,161. In response, Applicants have amended the paragraph [0007] accordingly, thereby obviating the objection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3, 6-11, 14-19, 22-26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Patel et al.* (US 2003/0221829 (hereinafter, "*Patel*")). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1, 7, and 23 have been amended to clarify that the blocking member retains the connector for the upper instrumentation line out of alignment with the connector for the lower instrumentation line or prevents alignment of the two connectors or ends of the instrumentation lines. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 7, and 23 can be found in at least paragraphs [0031] (lines 14-20), [0038] (lines 3-20), and [0040] (lines 4-10) of the published application. *Patel* does not teach, show, or suggest that "landing the stinger axially displaces a blocking member that retains the connector for the upper instrumentation line out of alignment with a connector for a lower instrumentation line" as recited in amended independent claim 1. *Patel* also does not teach, show, or suggest a blocking member configured to prevent alignment of two connectors or ends of the upper and lower instrumentation lines as recited in amended independent claims 7 and 23. Furthermore, *Patel* does not teach, show, or suggest "a blocking member that prevents connection of the upper instrumentation line" as recited in independent claim 16.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 7, 16, and 23, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are allowable and respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12, 13 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Patel et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Patel does not teach, show, or suggest a blocking member configured to prevent alignment of two connectors or ends of the upper and lower instrumentation lines as recited in amended independent claims 7 and 23. Accordingly, Applicant submits that

claims 12, 13, and 27, in light of the amended claims 7 and 23, are allowable and respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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